

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5073

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, RQ

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN UNGA: CHAIRMAN DIAZ GONZALEZ'

STATEMENT IN FOURTH COMMITTEE

REFS: USUN 5002 AND 4895; CARACAS 9970

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED - FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF CHAIRMAN DIAZ GONZALEZ' STATEMENT TO FOURTH COMMITTEE NOV. 16 AS IT APPEARS IN SUMMARY RECORD (A/C.4/SR.2062):

QTE. THE CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT, IN HER STATEMENT, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES HAD ALLUDED TO THE DISCUSSION WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE AT THE 2058TH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION AND HAD SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD NOT ONLY MADE A MOCKERY OF THE DECISIONS REACHED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUT HAD ALSO VIOLATED THE RULES OF PROCEDURE. HE WISHED, THEREFORE, TO CLEAR UP ANY DOUBTS WITH REGARD TO THE CHAIRMAN'S HANDLING OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

QTE. IT WAS ESTABLISHED PRACTICE IN THE COMMITTEE THAT REPRESENTATIVES SPEAKING ON A GIVEN ITEM COULD REFER TO OTHER ITEMS RELATING TO COLONIALISM. THAT PROCEDURE WAS QUITE LOGICAL SINCE COLONIAL QUESTIONS WERE CLOSELY INTER-
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RELATED. ALTHOUGH COLONIES MIGHT BE SITUATED IN DIFFERENT

PART OF THE GLOBE, THE PRINCIPLE OF COLONIALISM WAS ONE AND THE SAME IRRESPECTIVE OF THE COLONY OR THE COLONIAL POWER CONCERNED.

QTE. AS HE HAD STATED IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT, GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1514 (XV) APPLIED EQUALLY AND IN TOTALITY TO ALL COLONIAL TERRITORIES IRRESPECTIVE OF THE CONTINENT ON WHICH THEY WERE SITUATED OR OF THE COLONIAL POWER.

QTE. THE ITEM ON PUERTO RICO HAD BEEN STUDIED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF 24 AT ITS MEETINGS IN 1972 AND 1973, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESOLUTION IT HAD ADOPTED ON 28 AUGUST 1972.

QTE. AT ITS 938TH, 941ST TO 944TH, 947TH AND 948TH MEETINGS, BETWEEN 16 AND 30 AUGUST 1973, THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAD DISCUSSED THE ITEM ON THE BASIS OF THE REPORT PRESENTED BY ITS WORKING GROUP WHICH, UNDER RESOLUTION A/AC.109/L.837 ADOPTED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AT ITS 890TH MEETING, HAD BEEN 'INSTRUCTED TO SUBMIT A REPORT RELATING SPECIFICALLY TO THE PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1514 (XV) WITH RESPECT TO PUERTO RICO'.

QTE. THE RESULT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION HAD BEEN THE RESOLUTION (A/AC.109/438) IT HAD ADOPTED AT ITS 948TH MEETING. THE TERMS OF THAT RESOLUTION WERE QUITE UNEQUIVOCAL AND IT WAS CLEAR THAT THAT QUESTION WAS AMONG THE ITEMS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE FOURTH COMMITTEE. THE CHAIR HAD BEEN GUIDED BY THAT FACT IN PROCEEDING AS IT HAD DONE AND HE CONSIDERED ITS HANDLING OF THE MATTER TO HAVE BEEN BOTH FAIR AND CORRECT.

QTE. IF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAD NO OBJECTION, HE WOULD ASK THAT HIS STATEMENT SHOULD APPEAR IN EXTENSO IN THE RECORDS OF THE MEETING. END QTE. END UNCLASSIFIED

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL COMMENT: DIAZ GONZALEZ HAS
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CONSIDERABLY REVISED HIS STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD AND, AS IT NOW APPEARS IN PRINT, IT CONTAINS SOME UNHELPFUL INNUENDOES BUT HAS NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON SUBSTANCE OF OUR POSITION IN FOURTH COMMITTEE WITH RESPECT TO PUERTO RICO. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT FOURTH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LAST YEAR ALSO REFUSED TO PREVENT CUBAN DELEGATE FROM INCLUDING REFERENCES TO PUERTO RICO IN HER STATEMENT ON GROUNDS THAT PUERTO RICO DISCUSSED IN COMMITTEE

OF 24 REPORT. WE PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO SEE EXPUNGED
FROM THE RECORD DIAZ GONZALEZ REMARK THAT PUERTO RICO IS
A COLONY (WHICH WE AND OTHER DELEGATES DEFINITELY HEARD).
WE THEREFORE DO NOT PLAN TO PURSUE MATTER FURTHER IN
COMMITTEE AT THIS TIME EVEN THOUGH WE RESERVED OUR RIGHT
TO REFER TO THE QUESTION LATER. END CONFIDENTIAL
BENNETT

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